

Press release

Geneva, January 17, 2019

THE FIFDH UNVEILS ITS 2019 POSTER!

The poster of the Festival's 17th edition was created from a photograph by **Zuko Wonderfull Sikhafungana**, photographer, filmmaker and theatre director from South Africa. He directs the Back Stage Theater Production, a troupe based in a township in Cape Town, which explores the links between poetry and politics.

"We fell in love with this striking image, that is both intimate and collective. Like this 17th edition of the FIFDH, it offers a unique and intrepid perspective, it takes a clear stance against the current era of anger and goes beyond gender identities. To our mind, this image evokes a freedom of tone, a deep desire, but also an ideal to be recovered" says Isabelle Gattiker, Director of the Festival.

Leïla Slimani, President of the Jury

A French-Moroccan novelist born in 1981, Leïla Slimani won the Goncourt prize in 2016 with her second novel *The Sweet Song* (Gallimard), translated into 44 languages, which propelled her to the rank of "most widely read French author in the world".

A virtuoso writer, feminist and activist, her incisive prose has prompted passionate debates around the world on the status of women and social inequalities. Leïla Slimani is also Emmanuel Macron's personal representative for La Francophonie, which did not prevent her from publicly questioning the President last November in support of migrants and undocumented migrants.

Invited to Geneva in partnership with the **Société de Lecture**, she will preside over the Documentary Jury and will participate in an encounter with the Festival's public on **March 12th at 12:00**, at the Espace Pitoëff – Grande Salle. The discussion will be led by Mathieu Menghini, historian and practitioner of cultural action. Information available online at www.fifdh.org on February 14th.

The Festival opening pays tribute to Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize 2018

The 17th edition will open on March 8th, International Women's Rights Day. On this occasion, the Festival highlights women human rights defenders around the world.

The opening film, ***On Her Shoulders***, awarded at the Sundance Film Festival, tells the story of Nadia Murad, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who survived the violence and crimes perpetrated against the Yezidi people by Daesh. Filmmaker Alexandria Bombach brilliantly presents one of the first films that directly denounces the heavy personal toll paid by women victims and human rights activists.

The **opening ceremony** will be attended by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet**, Swiss Secretary of State, **Pascale Baeriswyl**, Mayor of Geneva **Sami Kanaan**, State Councillor **Thierry Apothéloz**, the permanent Representative of the Francophonie to the United Nations **Henri Monceau** and human rights defenders in Libya, Brazil, Iraq and Ukraine.

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SAVE THE DATE

PRESS CONFERENCE Thursday, February 14th at 11:00 am

Fonction: Cinema, 16, rue du General Dufour, Geneva.

Full program and opening of online ticketing at www.fifdh.org

IN BRIEF

The FIFDH is the most important event dedicated to cinema and human rights around the world. **The 17th edition of the Festival will be held from March 8 to 17, 2019**, in 60 locations of Greater Geneva and French-speaking Switzerland, in parallel with the main session of the UN Human Rights Council.

In the heart of Geneva, the international capital of human rights, the FIFDH has emerged as a space of original and effective dialogue. The Festival brings together nearly 300 guests and 38'000 festival-goers over the course of 200 events.